

**Engagement Leadership Council
Meeting Highlights – Virtual Only
September 5, 2025 (2:00 - 3:15 p.m.)**



Participants: Craig Arthur (Transdisciplinary Studies), Amy Azano (Center for Rural Education), Jennifer Clevenger (COIA), Catherine Cotrupi (Graduate School), Diane Deffenbaugh (Engagement Communications), Guru Ghosh (OIA), Mike Gutter (VCE), Shelly Jobst (CPE), Jeremy Johnson (CALS Extension), Keisha Killingsworth (for Pamela Gilchrist – GWDCA), Gary Kirk (CENI), Allison Mays (Southwest Center), Elsie Paredes (LCI), Courtney Powell (VTC SOM), Katrina Powell (CLAHS), John Provo (Center for Economic and Community Engagement), Susan Short (OIA), Scott Weimer (Roanoke Initiatives), Ariana Wyatt (AAD)

Unable to Attend: Nicole Akers (COE), Brian Bond (CNRE), Kevin Carlson (PCOB), Kristy Collins (FLSI), Victoria Corbin (COS), Jes Davis (VT Engage), Harpreet Singh Dhillon (CPE), Hal Irvin (Health Sciences Technology), Farida Jalalzai (CLAHS), Rich Mathieson (OIA), Erin Poff (ICTAS), Dana Robertson (School of Education), Brenda van Gelder (Information Technology), Meghan Weyrens Kuhn (VT Engage)

Welcome/Introductions

Susan Short welcomed the group.

Engagement Scholarship Consortium 2025 – Updates

Scott Weimer provided updates related to the upcoming Engagement Scholarship Consortium 2025 annual meeting. The conference will be held at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center October 6 – 9, 2025. Numerous Virginia Tech proposals were submitted by students and faculty. Fifty (50) presentations will be delivered from Virginia Tech colleagues including ten graduate student presentations. The following colleges are represented in these presentations: AAD, COE, CLAHS, COS, Honors, and VTC SOM. Registration for pre-conferences and the main conference are open – ([Registration - Engagement Scholarship Consortium](#)). Lodging information at The Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center is also available. 450

participants are currently registered for the conference as well as pre-conference sessions. Scott will forward a call for volunteers during the next several weeks. Moderators are needed for workshops, research and partnership presentations, roundtables, and poster sessions. Susan shared that Virginia Tech will have a table display as part of the conference. Led by Diane Deffenbaugh, a pamphlet has been developed through conversations with university leaders including VT Engage for distribution during the conference (Stronger Together - see attached).

Carnegie Foundation 2026 Elective Classification for Community Engagement – Discoveries/Next Steps

Susan provided a handout (see attached) developed from wrap-up conversations with the university wide Carnegie Reclassification leadership team. The document, *Building a Culture of Engagement at Virginia Tech/Elevating Engaged Scholarship at Virginia Tech*, included information related to the Carnegie Reclassification Application discoveries, short- and long-term strategies, priorities, deliverables, and metrics. A follow-up discussion included various perspectives and needs to define the role of AP faculty, collegiate, and research faculty in this work.

Program Updates

Several updates were provided by ELC members. These included:

John Provo announced the upcoming AM2 HUB conference will be hosted on September 15, 2025, at the Inn at Virginia Tech and Conference Center.
<https://am2virginia.org>

Shelly Jobst shared that the Lifelong Learning Institute program has record enrollment for the Fall Term (439 members) and features eighty-one different offerings.

Gary Kirk announced that the VT Science Festival will be held on November 15th. The planning group is seeking additional displays and volunteers. In addition, "Hokies for a Day" program designed for fifth graders, is seeking additional interactive exhibits.

Katie Powell shared that the nine funded projects through *Monuments Across Appalachian Virginia* will be featured at the Lyric Theatre on April 29, 2026.

Courtney Powell announced that the Roanoke STEAM Day will be held on October 17, 2025, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The K-8 event has 1,000 students registered. K-5 activities will be hosted downtown Roanoke. 6-8 activities will be hosted at the Roanoke Higher Education Center.

Adjournment

Susan announced dates for 2025-26 Engagement Leadership Council meetings and encouraged participants/representatives to mark their calendars. The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Susan E. Short, Senior Associate Vice President for OIA
September 25, 2025*

Engagement Leadership Council: 2025-2026 Academic Year Meeting Dates
In-person meetings will be held from 2 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. in OIA Suite 120 (902 Prices Fork Road). Virtual options for participation will be provided.

Thursday, December 4, 2025
Thursday, March 5, 2026
Thursday, June 4, 2026